

HISTORICAL HOUSES - NAMED, M-Z

Duxbury Clipper

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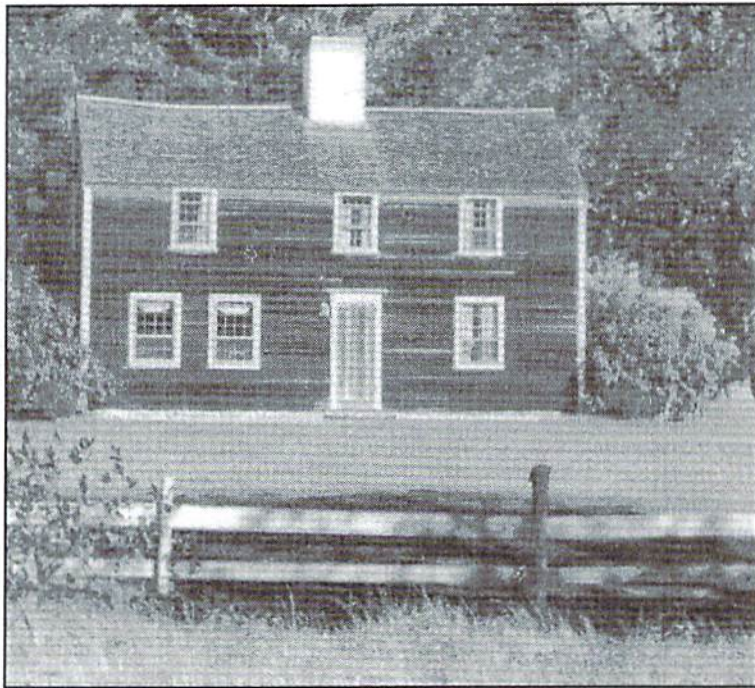
Ichabod Wadsworth, c. 1708

The portion of Mayflower Street on which the Ichabod Wadsworth House stands is one of the oldest roads in Duxbury. The winding path was used by settlers travelling from Duxbury to Pembroke as early as 1646 and probably existed as a Native American path before that time.

Ichabod's grandfather, Christopher Wadsworth, was among the first settlers of Duxbury and the first constable of the town. Although he lived close to the shore (to the west of Hall's Corner), Christopher acquired land along present day Mayflower Street and passed the lot on to his descendants.

Ichabod Wadsworth inherited the 50 acres of unimproved land from his father in 1700 when he was just 13. It is presumed that Ichabod did not come into his inheritance until he "came of age" at age 21 in 1708. He married Margaret Marshall on February 10, 1720. The house, therefore, was built at some time between 1708 and 1719.

"My feeling is that it was likely that Ichabod, being the fifth child in a family which grew to 11, either left of his own accord to reside on his inherited land when he came of age or was 'politely' asked to vacate," says researcher Robert



The Ichabod Wadsworth House, owned by Robert and Jane Wilson.

Dente.

Ichabod and Margaret raised eight children in the house, including Mercy Wadsworth who married Briggs Alden in 1741 and left home to live in the well known Alden homestead. Mercy's husband, a humble farmer of 18 years when she married him, would go on to become a distinguished leader in town and colonial affairs and a colonel of militia during the Revolution.

The Ichabod Wadsworth House now stands as an impor-

tant connection to the town's early settlers and one of the oldest remaining houses in Duxbury.

This is the third in a series of articles on houses which have received dateboards from the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society in the past year. The Dateboard Committee is chaired by Ninky Savage. Individuals who would like information on having their homes dateboarded are encouraged to call the DRHS at 934-6106.